United Nations A/C.2/71/L.18

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
13 October 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Second Committee
Agenda item 19 (j)
Sustainable development: sustainable mountain development

Italy and Peru: draft resolution

Sustainable mountain development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002, 58/216 of 23 December 2003, 59/238 of 22 December 2004, 60/198 of 22 December 2005, 62/196 of 19 December 2007, 64/205 of 21 December 2009, 66/205 of 22 December 2011 and 68/217 of 20 December 2013, entitled "Sustainable mountain development",

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, committed to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, recognizes that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources and confirms the determination of the international community to conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas and freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands, and to protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife, and therefore, inter alia, includes three targets directly related to sustainable mountain development, namely, targets 6.6, 15.1 and 15.4, among other interlinked Sustainable Development Goals with high relevance for mountain peoples and ecosystems, in particular Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 17,

Please recycle

Reaffirming its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, entitled "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level",

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] and recognizing its synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems,

Welcoming also the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,[2] adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the latter of which, inter alia, identifies a need for focused action in investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and in this regard considers it important to promote, at the national and local levels, the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help to reduce risks,

Reaffirming chapter 13 of Agenda 21[3] and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[4] in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[5]

Recognizing that the benefits derived from mountain regions are essential for sustainable development and that mountain ecosystems play a crucial role in providing water and other essential resources and services to a large portion of the world's population,

---

[1] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[2] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] Resolution 66/288, annex.

Recognizing also that mountain ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the increasing adverse impacts of climate change, extreme weather events, deforestation and forest degradation, land use change, land degradation and natural disasters, from which they recover slowly, and that mountain glaciers around the world are retreating and getting thinner, with increasing impacts on the environment, sustainable livelihoods and human well-being, leading to the abandonment of many mountain regions by vulnerable peoples,

Acknowledging that, despite the progress that has been made in promoting sustainable development of mountain regions and conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, the prevalence of poverty, food insecurity, social exclusion, environmental degradation and exposure to the risk of disasters is still high, particularly in developing countries, and access to safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation as well as to sustainable modern energy services continues to be limited,

Noting with deep concern that, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,[6] the number of mountain people in developing countries considered vulnerable to food insecurity increased by 30 per cent between 2000 and 2012, and in this regard acknowledging the need to prioritize the special and urgent attention needed by mountain areas, including by focusing on the specific challenges they face and the opportunities they provide,

Noting the collaborative efforts of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development as a multi-stakeholder approach benefiting from the committed support of 57 Governments, 14 intergovernmental organizations, 210 organizations from major groups and five subnational authorities, and engaged in the promotion of sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in mountain regions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Encourages* States to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches, including through incorporating mountain-specific policies into national sustainable development strategies, increase efforts to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and address food insecurity and malnutrition, social exclusion, environmental degradation and disaster risk in mountain areas, taking into account that an integrated landscape approach which addresses natural resources management, including watershed and sustainable forest management as well as climate change resilience through multi-stakeholder approaches, can lead to the sustainable development of highland areas, the improvement of the livelihood of the local communities and the sustainable use of mountain resources;

3. *Stresses* the special vulnerability of people living in mountain environments, often with limited access to health, education and economic systems and particularly at risk because of the negative impact of extreme natural phenomena, and invites States to strengthen cooperative action, with the effective

[6] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Mapping the Vulnerability of Mountain Peoples to Food Insecurity* (Rome, 2015).

[7] A/71/256.

involvement and sharing of knowledge and experience of all relevant stakeholders, including traditional knowledge and knowledge of indigenous people and of local mountain communities, by strengthening existing arrangements, agreements and centres of excellence for sustainable mountain development, as well as exploring new arrangements and agreements, as appropriate;

4. *Also stresses* that indigenous peoples' traditions and knowledge, particularly in agriculture and in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy, strategies and programmes in mountain regions, and underlines the need to promote the full participation and involvement of local mountain communities in decisions that affect them and to integrate indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

5. *Notes* that women are often the primary managers of mountain resources and the main actors in agriculture, underlines the need for improved access to resources, including land and economic and financial services, for women in mountain regions, as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments, and encourages Governments and intergovernmental organizations to integrate the gender dimension, including gender-disaggregated data, in mountain development activities, programmes and projects;

6. *Recognizes* that mountains provide sensitive indications of climate change through phenomena such as modifications and loss of biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers, flash floods and changes in seasonal runoff, which are having an impact on major sources of freshwater in the world, and stresses the need to undertake actions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena and promote adaptation measures to contribute to the achievement of targets 6.6 and 15.1 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[8] for the protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems and their services;

7. *Encourages* Member States to collect at the local, national and regional levels, as appropriate, disaggregated scientific data on mountain areas through systematic monitoring, including of trends of progress and change, based on relevant criteria, to support interdisciplinary research programmes and projects and to enhance an integrated and inclusive approach to decision-making, planning and adaptation to climate change, and in this regard welcomes the development of the Mountain Green Cover Index and its inclusion in the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets prepared by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators as an official indicator to measure efforts to meet target 15.4 of the 2030 Agenda;

8. *Encourages* Member States and all relevant stakeholders to continue to increase public awareness with respect to the positive and still unaccounted-for economic benefits that mountains provide not only to highland communities but also to a large portion of the world's population living in lowland areas;

9. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the contribution of sustainable tourism initiatives in mountain regions as a way to enhance environmental protection and generate socioeconomic benefits for local communities, including opportunities for

[8] Resolution 70/1.

productive employment, economic growth and the promotion of local culture and products;

10. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for societies throughout the world, and recognizes that disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership, empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest, and taking into account the special vulnerability of people living in mountain environments, especially those in developing countries;

11. *Encourages* States to strengthen disaster risk governance, to invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience and to develop and improve disaster risk strategies in mountain regions, including a forward-looking perspective, in order to cope with such extreme events as rockfalls, avalanches, glacial lake outburst floods and landslides, which can be exacerbated by climate change and deforestation, while fully implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;[9]

12. *Encourages*, in this regard, the increased involvement of local authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in particular the rural population, indigenous peoples, civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes, land-use planning and land tenure arrangements, and in other relevant activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

13. *Underlines* the importance of ensuring the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for human well-being, economic activity and sustainable development, and of developing innovative means of financing for their protection, and in this regard welcomes the launching of the Mountain Facility of the Mountain Partnership and encourages States and other relevant stakeholders to financially support it on a voluntary basis;

14. *Encourages* greater efforts by States, all stakeholders and the international community towards the conservation of mountain ecosystems and the enhancement of the well-being of their local populations, including by supporting education, extension and capacity-building programmes, especially among local mountain communities and other relevant stakeholders, taking into account the extent of the current challenges they face and bearing in mind the increased economic, social and environmental costs that inaction might represent for countries and societies;

15. *Underlines* the fact that action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development, welcomes its steady increase in recent years with a multitude of events, activities and initiatives, and invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to develop and implement strategies and programmes, including, where required, enabling policies and laws for the sustainable development of mountains, within the

[9] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

framework of national sustainable development plans, including by building and strengthening institutional capacities, as appropriate;

16. *Encourages* the further undertaking of multi-stakeholder and transboundary initiatives at the national, regional and global levels, where appropriate, such as those supported by all relevant international and regional organizations, to enhance sustainable development in mountain regions, and notes in this regard the numerous initiatives undertaken, including the second World Mountain Forum, held in Cusco, Peru, in May 2014, the Mountain Partnership Event on nutrition and mountain products held in Turin, Italy, in September 2016, and the fifth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership, to be held in Mbale, Uganda, in 2017;

17. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of the mountain-related provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including targets 6.6, 15.1 and 15.4 and their interlinkages with other Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[10] including article 5.1 of the Paris Agreement,[1] the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,[11] the relevant chapters of Agenda 21,[3] including chapter 13, paragraph 42 and other relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[4] and the relevant paragraphs of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[5] in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations;

18. *Recognizes* that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries, and in this context encourages transboundary cooperation approaches where the States concerned agree to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

19. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention)[12] and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, which promote constructive new approaches to integrated, sustainable mountain development and provide a forum for dialogue among stakeholders, as well as other transboundary approaches and initiatives such as the Mountain Partnership Andean Initiative, the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region and the African Mountains Regional Forum;

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[11] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2, annex.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1917, No. 32724.

20. *Decides* to give consideration, as appropriate, to sustainable mountain development in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution under the sub-item entitled "Sustainable mountain development" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.